

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6558

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.O. 11652: N/A (DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT)

TAGS: PFOR, UK, RH, SF

SUBJECT: TRANSCRIPT OF IVOR RICHARD'S JANUARY 3 PRESS CONFERENCE

1. BRITISH EMBASSY PROVIDED US FOLLOWING TRANSCRIPT OF
IVOR RICHARD'S PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 3 IN PRETORIA
FOLLOWING HIS MEETING EARLIER IN THE DAY WITH PRIME MINISTER
VORSTER.

2. TEXT OF MR. RICHARD'S OPENING STATEMENT: QUOTE

BACKGROUND - WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE AND HOW WE
HOPE TO ACHIEVE IT. I CAME TO THE CONCLUSION TOWARDS THE END
OF THE FIRST PART OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WHICH RECESSED IN
DECEMBER THAT THE CHANCES OF GETTING AN AGREEMENT WITHOUT SOME
NEW FACTOR BEING INTRODUCED INTO THE DISCUSSIONS WERE NOT AT
THAT STAGE VERY BRIGHT. WE THEREFORE CONSIDERED THE MATTER AND
CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE WAY IN WHICH PROGRESS COULD
BE MADE WOULD BE BY INSERTING INTO THE EQUATION A MUTUAL ELEMENT.
I CAME TO THIS CONCLUSION FOR TWO REASONS
BECAUSE IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THERE HAVE TO BE TWO SETS OF
MUTUAL REASSURANCES GIVEN. ON THE ONE HAND THE WHITE POPULATION
OF RHODESIA IS ENTITLED TO BE ASSURED THAT THE TRANSITION FROM
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MINORITY RULE TO MAJORITY RULE WILL BE ORDERLY, WILL BE
PEACEFUL, THAT THEY WILL HAVE A ROLE IN THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT
AND THAT THEY WILL HAVE A PLACE IN AN EVENTUALLY INDEPENDENT
COUNTRY. ON THE OTHER SIDE, THE MAJORITY POPULATION IN RHODESIA
WANT REASSURANCES THAT THE PROCESS TO MAJORITY RULE PROGRESS
FROM NOW TO INDEPENDENCE TO MAJORITY RULE WILL BE IRREVERSIBLE.
IT SEEMED TO ME THEREFORE THAT IN ORDER TO TRY AND GIVE THOSE

MUTUAL REASSURANCES TO BOTH SIDES WHAT WAS NEEDED WAS TO HAVE A BRITISH DIRECT PRESENCE IN THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT IN RHODESIA WHO COULD HOLD THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES, WHO COULD, BY ACTING IMPARTIALLY IN THAT SITUATION, PREVENT EITHER SIDE FROM PUSHING ITS OWN PARTICULAR POINT OF VIEW TO AN EXTREME. (COME TO AFRICA) IS TO EXPLORE WITH THE PARTIES THEMSELVES AND WITH THE COUNTRIES MOST DIRECTLY INTERESTED IN THESE IDEAS. AS YOU KNOW I SAW PRESIDENT KAUNDA LAST WEEK. I SAW MR SMITH OVER THE WEEKEND. I HAVE SEEN ONE OR TWO REPORTS ABOUT THAT MEETING AND TODAY I CAME FROM SALISBURY AND SAW THE PRIME MINISTER. MAY I PUBLICLY THANK THE PRIME MINISTER AND MRS VORSTER FOR THE EXTREMELY FRIENDLY WAY IN WHICH WE WERE RECEIVED, FOR THE WARM AND GENEROUS HOSPITALITY THEY ACCORDED TO US. AS FOR THE TALKS THEMSELVES, ALL I CAN SAY ABOUT THEM IS THAT THEY WERE HELPFUL; THEY WERE USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE; AND THE PRIME MINISTER AND I AGREED THAT WE WOULD MEET AGAIN IN A WEEK OR TWO. PROBABLY IN ABOUT 10 DAYS TIME. END QUOTE.

3. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: QUOTE

Q. SABC - COULD YOU TELL US WHAT WAS THE ATTITUDE OF MR VORSTER TOWARDS THE IDEA OF A BRITISH PRESENCE IN RHODESIA?

A. NO. I CAN ONLY TELL YOU WHAT I SAID ABOUT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE TALKS. THE TALKS WERE HELPFUL, USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE, AND WE BOTH AGREED WE SHOULD MEET AGAIN.

Q. REUTERS.-WHY IS IT SO ESSENTIAL TO HAVE MR VORSTER'S AGREEMENT?

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A. IT'S NOT THE QUESTION OF BEING ESSENTIAL TO GET ANYBODY'S AGREEMENT, EXCEPT OF COURSE THE PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED, BUT OBVIOUSLY THOSE COUNTRIES THAT ARE MOST INTERESTED IN THE PROBLEM, THE FOUR FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS, AND SOUTH AFRICA, ARE NATURALLY COUNTRIES THAT WE WOULD WISH TO CONSULT ABOUT SETTLEMENT. IT SEEMS TO ME FRANKLY INEVITABLE AND RIGHT THAT AS PART OF THIS WHOLE NEGOTIATING PROCESS THOSE COUNTRIES SHOULD BE INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN THE DISCUSSIONS AND THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT I AM TRYING TO DO.

Q. STAR - DO YOU SEE A ROLE FOR THE NEW BLACK PARTY WHICH HAS JUST BEEN FORMED IN RHODESIA?

A. I ONLY MET THEM FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE WEEKEND. I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH THE LEADERS OF THAT PARTY. THEY ASKED WHETHER THEY COULD BE REPRESENTED AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WHEN IT RESUMES. I SAID WITHOUT ANY COMMITMENT ON MY PART I WOULD CONSIDER THEIR REQUEST. WE HAD AN EXPLORATORY MEETING IN

WHICH THEY EXPLAINED TO ME THE PURPOSES OF THEIR PARTY AND WHAT THEY HOPED TO ACHIEVE. FROM MY POINT OF VIEW FRANKLY IT WAS A MEETING AT WHICH I LISTENED RATHER THAN TALKED.

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Q. TIMES - HAVING SEEN 3 OF THE MAIN LEADERS INVOLVED, WHAT IS YOUR FEELING NOW ABOUT GETTING ACCEPTANCE FOR YOUR PROPOSALS AND THE SUCCESS OF THE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA?

A. I THINK THOSE TWO ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE SAME POINT. FIRST OF ALL I HAVE NOT ACTUALLY PUT FORWARD ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS TO ANYBODY. I HAVE TRIED TO EXPLORE CERTAIN IDEAS WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED. BUT AS TO THE POSSIBILITIES FOR SUCCESS, I AM CONVINCED THAT IN THE END WE WILL GET A SETTLEMENT TO THIS PROBLEM. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT ONE THING THAT HAS EMERGED WHEREVER I HAVE GONE AND TO WHOMSOEVER I HAVE TALKED IS A DESIRE TO GET A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT TO THIS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT ISSUE. A DESIRE FIRST OF ALL TO SEE THAT THE WAR IS STOPPED AND COMES TO AN END AND TH KILLING IS THEREFORE STOPPED, AND DESIRE TO SEE THAT THE TRANSITION FROM MINORITY TO MAJORITY RULE SHOULD BE A PEACEFUL ONE AND THAT THE COUNTRY WILL END UP WITH A STABLE MAJORITY GOVERNMENT. NOW IT SEEMS TO ME THOSE FACTORS ARE COMMON. IF THEY ARE THEN IT REALLY WOULD BE A SAD DAY FOR THE HUMAN RACE IF WE COULDN'T DEVISE A STRUCTURE FOR AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT WHICH TOOK ACCOUNT OF EVERYBODY'S SPECIAL INTERESTS AND VITAL INTERESTS AND AT THE SAME TIME ACCOMPLISHED THOSE AGREED AIMS.

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Q. ITN LONDON- IF THE PRESENCE OF A BRITISH CHAIRMAN
IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IS REPUGNANT TO MR SMITH AS IT
SEEMS TO BE, WOULD YOU CONSIDER POSSIBLY AN AMERICAN CHAIRMAN?

A. WE HAVEN'T CONSIDERED IT, NO.

Q. WOULD YOU THOUGH?

A. WELL, I AM NOT SURE TO WHAT EXTENT THE WHOLE THING IS GOING
TO BE REPUGNANT TO MR SMITH. WE HAD A FAIRLY BRISK MEETING. WE
ENDED UP WITH A CUP OF TEA IN THE GARDEN OUTSIDE SO PERHAPS
IT WASN'T AS VIOLENT AS SOME OF THE MORE LURID ACCOUNTS I HAVE
READ SEEM TO INDICATE. I THINK IT WILL BE A MATTER FOR HIM
TO CONSIDER QUIETLY - PERHAPS WITH ME NOT BEING THERE OPPOSITE
HIM - WHETHER OR NOT MY THOUGHTS MAKE SENSE. WE THINK THEY
MAKE SENSE. OBVIOUSLY OTHERWISE WE WOULD NOT BE TALKING TO
THE PARTIES CONCERNED AND INTERESTED ABOUT THEM. I THINK WE
MUST GIVE IT TIME.

Q. ITN - IS IT A FAIR SUMMING UP OF YOUR TRIPS YOU ARE MAKING
ROUND THE FRONT LINE COUNTRIES TO GET AGREEMENT FROM ALL THOSE
FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS AND TO TAKE THAT COMMON AGREEMENT BACK
TO MR SMITH AND PRESENT HIM WITH SOME SORT OF ULTIMATUM?

A. OH NO. THE LAST THING YOU CAN DO IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS
IS TO HAVE DIPLOMACY BY ULTIMATUM. THE ESSENCE OF THIS EXERCISE
IS THAT THERE HAS TO BE AN AGREEMENT. THE PARTIES CONCERNED
HAVE TO AGREE, AND THEY HAVE TO AGREE VOLUNTARILY AND THEY HAVE
TO AGREE IN A WAY WHICH MAKES THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT AND AN
EVENTUAL INDEPENDENT COUNTRY WORKABLE AND SENSIBLE. THIS IS
NOT REALLY A QUESTION OF STANDING OVER SOMEBODY WITH A
CLUB AND SAYING "SIGN OR ELSE." THIS VERY MUCH A QUESTION OF
LISTENING TO VIEWS AND TRYING TO RECONCILE DEEPLY HELD AND
SINCERE PRINCIPLES. I HAVE NEVER PRETENDED IT WOULD BE EASY.
I HAVE ALSO NEVER PRETENDED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE.
AND I DON'T THINK IT IS.

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Q. GERMAN PRESS AGENCY - HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU REGARD THE
IDEOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE WHOLE THING?

A. WELL I THINK THERE ARE SOME IDEOLOGICAL ASPECTS IN IT. I
AM NOT QUITE SURE WHAT IDEOLOGY YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT. WHICH
SIZE IDEOLOGY DO YOU WANT ME TO LOOK AT?

Q. THE LEFT WING IDEOLOGY ADOPTED BY CERTAIN FACTIONS AS AGAINST THE PRO-WESTERN STAND ADOPTED BY OTHERS.

A. IN THINK THOSE PARTICIPANTS OR OBSERVERS AT GENEVA OR PEOPLE AT GENEVA WHO WOULD TAKE AN EXTREME COMMUNISTIC LINE WOULD BE EXTREMELY UNHELPFUL. ALL I CAN SAY TO YOU IS THAT SO FAR, IF YOU TAKE THE FRONT LINE OBSERVERS WHO WERE AT GENEVA FROM BASICALLY THE FOUR FRONT LINE STATES, THEY DIDN'T TAKE A STRONG IDEOLOGICAL POSITION IF YOU TAKE THE DELEGATIONS THAT WERE THERE - THE MEMBERS OF SOME OF THE DELEGATIONS OBVIOUSLY HAVE STRONG IDEOLOGICAL VIEWS. THEY DIDN'T SURFACE GREATLY IN THE POSITION PAPERS PUT IN BY THE VARIOUS DELEGATIONS AT GENEVA. AND IT WAS NOT A GREAT IDEOLOGICAL BATTLE. IT WAS RATHER AN EXTRAORDINARY EVENT IN MANY WAYS. I SEE SOME PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM WHO WATCHED IT FOR 8 WEEKS. ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING THINGS, AS I SAW IT, WAS THAT YOU HAD THE BLACK DELEGATIONS PUTTING IN THE POSITION PAPERS IN SOME DETAIL AND THEN FINDING THEMSELVES THAT THEY HAD TO DEFEND THEM AGAINST OTHER NATIONALIST DELEGATIONS, AND THAT THE DIALOGUE WAS NOT AN IDEOLOGICAL ONE AT ALL. IT WAS A VERY, VERY PRACTICAL ONE AND A THOROUGHLY COMPETENT AND CONSTITUTIONAL ONE AND A LEGAL ONE. IN SOME WAYS, THE IMPRESSIVE THING THAT WENT ON IN GENEVA ITSELF WAS NOT THE EXCESS IDEOLOGY BUT HOW LITTLE IDEOLOGY SEEMED TO PLAY IN THE ARGUMENT. THAT'S NOT TO SAY THAT PEOPLE ARE NOT IDEOLOGICAL. OF COURSE SOME OF THEM ARE AND STRONGLY SO. BUT WHAT I AM SAYING TO YOU IS THAT IT HASN'T SURFACED, I DON'T THINK, TO ANY VAST EXTENT IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS.

Q. ASSOCIATED PRESS - HOW LONG DO YOU THINK THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL CONTINUE FOR WHEN THEY RESUME IN GENEVA ON JANUARY 17?

A. AS LONG AS WE NEED.

Q. GUARDIAN - TO WHAT EXTENT DOES MR VORSTER SHARE MR SMITH'S VIEW THAT THE KISSINGER PACKAGE IS AN UNBREAKABLE CONTRACT?

A. NO, I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE TALKS I HAD WITH MR VORSTER ACCEPT YOU MUST DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS FROM THE FACT THAT WHEN I CAME OUT FROM THEM I SAID THEY WERE USEFUL, HELPFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE, AND THAT WE WOULD MEET AGAIN AND THAT HE STOOD NEXT TO ME AND AGREED WITH WHAT I SAID. AND THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THIS.

Q. SABC - SO FAR ALL THE PRESSURE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ON MR SMITH TO COMPROMISE. WOULD IT NOT BE A GOOD IDEA IF PRESSURE WERE EXERTED ON ROBERT MUGABE AND OTHERS TO BACK OFF ON

THEIR MILITANT APPROACH?

A. THE ASSUMPTION IN THAT IS THAT THEY HAVEN'T BEEN LEANT ON AT ALL. AND THAT THEIR POSITION HASN'T BEEN CHANGED SINCE WE STARTED AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. IN FACT THEY WERE LEANT ON QUITE CONSIDERABLY ON SOME ISSUES TO THE EXTENT THAT MR MUGABE ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE OF ELECTIONS BEFORE INDEPENDENCE IN RHODESIA. HE DIDN'T COME TO GENEVA WITH THAT VERY MUCH TO THE FRONT OF HIS MIND BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT WAS SOMETHING HE ACCEPTED BY THE TIME GENEVA WENT INTO RECESS. THE IDEA THAT THOSE 8 WEEKS WERE SIMPLY A SITUATION IN WHICH THE BLACK DELEGATIONS WERE GETTING IT ALL THEIR OWN WAY AND ALL THE PRESSURE IS BEING PUT UPON MR SMITH - FRANKLY, AS THE CHAP WHO IS SITTING IN THE CHAIR, IS A TRAVESTY AND IS NOT WHAT HAPPENED. IT MAY BE HOW IT HAS BEEN PRESENTED IN SOME QUARTERS BUT TO THOSE OF US WHO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTUALLY TOOK PART IN THE CONFERENCE I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THAT IS NOT SO.

Q. SABC - MUGABE DOES SEEM TO HAVE THROWN THE TALKS OUT OF THE WINDOW AND CALLED FOR AN INTENSIFICATION OF THE GUERRILLA WAR.

A. I HAVEN'T SEEN THE STATEMENT BY MR MUGABE. WHEN DID HE MAKE THIS STATEMENT? TODAY? I'VE JUST GOT OFF AN AEROPLANE, AND I HAVEN'T SEEN IT.

Q. RAND DAILY MAIL - COULD YOU DEFINE YOUR REASONS FOR VISITING MR VORSTER IN PARTICULAR? YOU TALK ABOUT THE NEED TO HAVE EVERYBODY INTIMATELY INVOLVED. DO YOU GO TO HIM AS A SOUNDING BOARD FOR IDEAS OR DO YOU GO TO HIM TO MAKE SPECIFIC REQUESTS?

A. I WENT TO SEE HIM TODAY FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND WE HAD A MEETING IN WHICH VIEWS WERE EXCHANGED.

Q. IS THE SOUNDING BOARD THEN A PURE ANALOGY?

A. IT IS NOT AN ACADEMIC EXERCISE. WE ARE NOT HERE JUST TO DISCUSS OUR IDEAS IN THE ABSTRACT. WE ARE ACTUALLY TRYING TO GET A SETTLEMENT OF THE VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEM IN RHODESIA. MR VORSTER WAS INTIMATELY CONCERNED WITH NEGOTIATIONS IN THE SUMMER WITH DR KISSINGER. IT SEEMED TO ME LUDICROUS THAT I SHOULDN'T NOW GO TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT WHAT I AM NOW THINKING OF.

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Q. THE ECONOMIC POWER THAT SOUTH AFRICA HOLDS OVER RHODESIA.
WAS THAT MENTIONED?

A. NO. IT WAS NOT MENTIONED TODAY AT ALL.

Q. RSA - DO YOU THINK THAT THE PRESENT AFRICAN DELEGATION IN
AFRICA IS GOING TO AFFECT THE GENEVA NEGOTIATION WHEN IT RECON-
VENES?

A. I HAVEN'T ACTUALLY COME ACROSS THEM YET. WHERE ARE THEY?

Q. THEY'RE COMING DOWN TO AFRICA. AND DO YOU THINK THEIR SITUATION
HERE AND THE TALKS THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE IN AFRICA WILL AFFECT
YOUR CONVENTION WHEN YOU GET BACK TO IT?

A. WELL YOU PUT ME IN A DIFFICULT POSITION, TALKING ABOUT THE
RUSSIANS. I MEAN FOR 3 YEARS I HAVE SAT NEXT TO THE SOVIET
UNION ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS BY THE
ACCIDENT OF THE ALPHABET - I'M THE UNITED KINGDOM, HE'S THE USSR.
I DON'T THINK THAT IT'S FOR ME PERHAPS TO COMMENT UP ON THE
FOREIGN POLICY OF OTHER NATIONS, EXCEPT TO SAY THEY ARE NOT
THE MOST UNIVERSALLY HELPFUL OF COUNTRIES AND ON THE RARE
OCCASIONS THAT I FIND MYSELF IN AGREEMENT WITH THE RUSSIAN
AMBASSADOR I HAVE ALSO FELT THE NEED TO GO AWAY AND RE-EXAMINE
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BY BASIC POSITION. APART FROM THAT WE GET ON VERY WELL.

Q. DO YOU THINK IT MIGHT CHANGE THEIR OPINION ON THE SITUATION?

A. DO YOU MEAN DO YOU THINK I COULD CONVINCE THE RUSSIANS?

Q. NO, NO, I MEAN MUGABE AND NKOMO. WOULD THEIR IDEAS POSSIBLY BE CHANGED BY THEIR PRESENCE?

A. HOW ON EARTH CAN I ANSWER THAT.

Q. I MEAN YOU OWN VIEW OF THE SITUATION.

A. MY OWN VIEW OF THE SITUATION IS THAT THE NATIONALIST DELEGATIONS IN GENEVA, AS ARE THE OTHER DELEGATIONS IN GENEVA, ARE PURSUING WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE RIGHT IN PURSUANCE OF THEIR INTERESTS AS THEY SEE IT. IF YOU ARE ASKING MY OPINION AS TO WHETHER I THINK MR ROBERT MUGABE IS A SOVIET STOOGES AND IS THERE MERELY DANCING TO SOMEBODY'S TUNE, I MUST SAY TO YOU THAT THAT IS NOT MY EXPERIENCE OF THE WAY HE IS BEHAVING. SOME OF THE PEOPLE ROUND HIM MAY HAVE MUCH STRONGER IDEOLOGICAL COMMITMENTS THAN HE DOES, BUT THIS IS NOT THE WAY IT SHOWED DURING THOSE 8 WEEKS IN GENEVA. I DON'T SAY HE'S THE MOST HELPFUL OF MEN BECAUSE HE'S NOT. HE CAN BE RATHER DIFFICULT WHEN YOU'RE TRYING TO GET THESE PARTIES TO AGREE. BUT I REALLY DIDN'T FEEL THAT THE DIFFICULTIES THAT THERE WERE WITH HIM WERE BASED SOLELY UP ON HIS POLITICAL VIEWS. I'M NOT ACTUALLY CERTAIN WHAT HIS POLITICAL VIEWS ARE EXCEPT THAT HE SEEMS TO BELIEVE THAT HE IS ON THE LEFT WING OF POLITICS.

Q. IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY, SIR, THAT THE RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE MIGHT BE POSTPONED. - YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT SEEING MR VORSTER IN 10 DAYS OR 2 WEEKS' TIME, WHICH WOULD BRING US CLOSE TO JANUARY 17TH.

A. WELL, WE WILL HAVE TO SEE HOW IT GOES. IF I DECIDE THAT THE 17TH IS TOO EARLY OBVIOUSLY WE WILL HAVE TO ADJOURN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESUMPTION.

Q. SABC - DR HENRY KISSINGER DURING HIS TOUR OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN STATES EXPERIENCED A GREAT DEAL OF CONTROVERSY AFTERWARDS AS TO WHAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AND WHAT HAD BEEN AGREED TO. WHAT METHODS WILL YOU BE EMPLOYING TO ENSURE THAT THIS DOES NOT HAPPEN AGAIN?

A. I AM NOT EMPLOYING ANY PARTICULAR METHOD EXCEPT THAT I AM SEEING ALL THE PARTIES INVOLVED INCLUDING THE NATIONALIST DELEGATIONS. I AM GOING TO SEE ALL THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS INCLUDING MOZAMBIQUE. I AM TRYING TO TALK TO EVERYBODY WHO I THINK NEEDS TO BE CONSULTED ON THIS MATTER SO THAT IT WOULD NOT BE OPEN AFTERWARDS FOR ANY PARTY OR PARTICIPANT OR PERSON INTERESTED TO SAY THAT WE HAVE NOT EXCHANGED VIEWS ON THIS TOPIC. SO I AM NOW TRYING TO SEE EVERYBODY.

Q. VOICE OF AMERICA - WILL YOU BE MEETING WITH MR EDMONDSON
THIS EVENING? WHAT IS THE NATURE OF YOUR CONSULTATIONS
WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS DURING THIS TOUR?

A. WE ARE NOT CONSULTING WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS ON THIS TOUR.
WE ARE INFORMING THEM AS TO WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING THE SAME
WAY AS WE ARE INFORMING OTHER COUNTRIES. END QUOTE.
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